## Remarks

Upon filing of the RCE, it is understood that all aspects of the amendment mailed to the U.S.P.T.O. on September 1, 2004, will be entered.

The above new amendments add no new matter. It has always been clear from the original claims that the method is for extruding "blow molding" film. It has thus always also been clear to a person of even minimal skill in the art that the extruded film is in the form of a tube since blow molding of a flat film is not possible, i.e. there is no film enclosed area in a flat film to hold air to permit "blowing".

A new apparatus claim 10 has been added having slightly different limitations than claim 2. All limitations in claim 10 find support in the specification.

The Examiner maintains that Claim 8 fails to further restrict Claim 2 as required by 35 U.S.C. 112. The applicants respectfully disagree. Once it is stated that the tube acts as a guide it is clear to one skilled in the art that additional limitations are inherent, e.g. that the tube must be of a diameter close to the diameter of the extruded film. A tube having a large diameter relative to the extruded film clearly cannot act as a guide, e.g. a tubular tank or a large spin tube 10 relative to the diameter of the extrusion as disclosed by Blades et al.. The rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 2 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,767,756 to Blades.

This 35 U.S.C. 102 rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claim 2 of the current patent application requires that the apparatus include

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- extrusion means for continuously extruding a cellulose solution to produce a blown tubular

cellulose film;

- precipitation means for solidifying the extruded cellulose **film**;

- draw means positioned downstream of the extrusion means for continuously drawing

the extruded cellulose film from the extrusion means; and

- a tubular member for containing precipitation means and for receiving the extruded

blown film wherein the tubular member is situated within a precipitation bath.

Blades does not disclose or suggest any of the above claim limitations set out in bold and

underlined.

Blades teaching with respect to extrusion is entirely limited to fibers. As an aside, Blades

mentions film in column 2, line 6 but says nothing at all about how such a film might be made

and gives no suggestion as to any characteristics such a film might have.

The present claims require an extrusion means for continuously extruding a cellulose

solution to produce a blown tubular cellulose film. The only extrusion apparatus discussed by

Blades is a spinning block 2 and a spinneret 3 suitable only for fibers. There is no disclosure or

suggestion anywhere in Blades about an extrusion die suitable for extruding film and certainly

not for extruding tubular film and even more certainly not for extruding blown tubular film. The

differences are in fact so great that Blades is non-analogous art.

Blades further does not disclose or suggest any precipitation means for solidifying an

extruded cellulose film. Precipitation means for solidifying polyamide fibers are entirely

different and do not suggest precipitation means for cellulose films.

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The Blades further does not suggest a tubular member for containing precipitation

means. Item 10 in Blades contains nothing as it is completely open at its lower end causing flow

disturbances. Blades does not disclose or suggest anything for receiving blown film since Blades

suggests nothing at all concerning blown film. In fact the tube 10 of Blades for receiving fibers

is not suitable for receiving blown tubular film since a co-current precipitant flow, as taught by

Blades for fibers, cannot work for tubular film. Fibers are small in diameter and precipitant can

reach the material of the fiber from four directions. This is simply not true of tubular films that

are hollow inside thus eliminating one direction for penetration of precipitant and comprise a

circular cross section effectively eliminating two more directions for penetration of precipitant.

Tubular films utilized in the Blades apparatus (even if suggested by Blades, which is not the

case) would thus be penetrated only one direction. Further turbulent flow through the relatively

large tube 10 of Blades cannot be tolerated in the manufacture of film. Blades co-current (non-

immersion )flow of precipitant would precipitate the film in an unacceptable spotty arrangement

at best.

The present claims require a tubular member that is situated within a precipitation

bath. Blades does not suggest such an apparatus. Blades tube 10 is not situated within a

precipitation bath but extends from the bath at its lower end thus keeping the tube from being

consistently filled with precipitation means. This is the antithesis of and precisely contrary to

the requirements of the presently claimed invention.

As clearly pointed out beginning at line 16 of original page 7 of the specification, the

tubular member of the present invention may be used as a guide for the extruded tubular

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film and may be used to protect the extruded tube from disturbances in the precipitation

medium thus resulting in improved uniformity of the tube wall thickness. The tubular

member also acts to control flow of precipitation medium around the tube and may be

transparent to permit observation of the tube as it is formed thus providing quality control (page

8 of the original specification). Blades flow through open tube 10 is of necessity turbulent and is

clearly contrary to the requirements of the present invention. Further, it is clear that the open

tube 10 of Blades et al. does not "act as a guide" for anything and certainly not for a blown film

as required by the present claims.

It is thus clear that Blades does not disclose or suggest the present invention and that the

rejection based upon Blades should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the application is

in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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